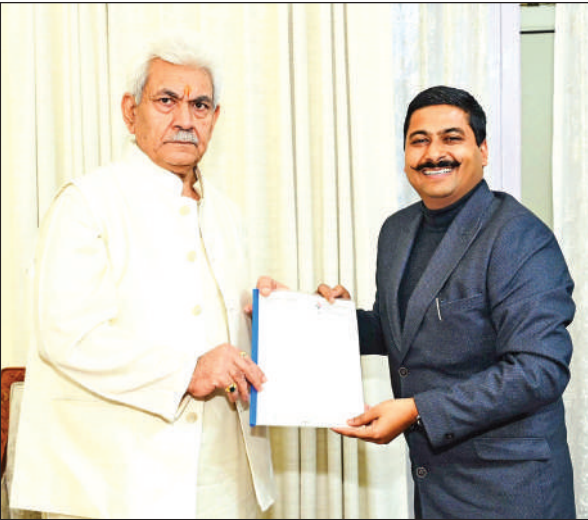


Gaurav calls on LG Sinha, advocates for development of Jammu region's growth & prosperity

■ STATE TIMES NEWS
JAMMU: Gaurav Gupta, Secretary of Jammu Club and former General Secretary of the Chamber of Commerce and Industry, held a significant meeting with the Lieutenant Governor of Jammu and Kashmir, Manoj Sinha and discussed various critical issues pertinent to the Jammu region's growth and prosperity.

In a memorandum submitted to the Lieutenant Governor, Gaurav Gupta conveyed his sincere appreciation for the remarkable progress witnessed in the Jammu and Kashmir Union Territory under his visionary leadership. Highlighting the transformative initiatives undertaken by the administration, including the establishment of new industrial estates, prestigious institutions such as IIT and AIIMS, and the expansion of vital infrastructure projects, he commended the Lieutenant Governor's unwavering commitment to the betterment of the region. Raising concern over some serious issues during the meeting, Gaurav Gupta emphasized the need to address hurdles faced by entrepreneurs in tourism development projects due to unwarranted imposition of Change of Land Use (CLU) charges. He apprised the Lt Governor that the Jammu and Kashmir Tourism Department has strategically identified regions such as



Secretary Jammu Club, Gaurav Gupta calling on Lieutenant Governor, Manoj Sinha.

Jammu, Reasi, Katra, Pancheri, and several others for tourism development initiatives. The recent tendering process initiated by the government to engage private entities, both local and outside from J&K, in the development of these tourism-centric regions.

However, despite these positive strides, they are faced with a concerning issue hindering the progress of these projects. Specifically, some authorities are impeding the smooth execution of initiatives by imposing unwarranted hurdles under the guise of Change of Land Use (CLU) regulations which was not earlier mentioned in Notice Inviting Tender (NIT). He emphasized

that the land allocated to the bidders is on a lease basis. Consequently, the imposition of CLU charges, typically applicable in cases involving ownership rights of land, is unwarranted and unjustifiable or may be the issue of oversight, he added. To ensure the seamless implementation of these vital tourism projects and to foster a conducive environment for entrepreneurial growth, he sought intervention of Lt Governor to the authorities concerned to adhere to the principles of 'Ease of Doing Business'.

Gaurav Gupta raised concerns regarding the disparity in promoting tourism potential sites between the Jammu and Kashmir regions on off-

cial social media handles of the J&K Tourism Department. He said that the main objective of official social media handle of Jammu & Kashmir Tourism Department is to promote the tourism potential sites of Jammu and Kashmir regions equally with a sole aim to increase the footfall of tourists in the Union Territory. But it predominantly promoting the Kashmir province only and deliberately neglecting the tourism potential sites of Jammu region.

"If the social media handle of J&K Tourism Department remains solely focused on Kashmir, then the inclusion of 'J' in the social media handle loses its purpose," he questioned. To address this disparity, the government should instruct the authorities managing the official J&K Tourism official social media handle in Srinagar to share the credentials (rights of handling the page that is User name and Password) with the Jammu tourism authorities so that they can have equal opportunities to promote the tourism sites of the Jammu region on J&K Tourism social media platforms as well, he sought. Gaurav Gupta lauded the government for hosting annually winter sports competitions in Gulmarg but simultaneously it's crucial to acknowledge the untapped potential of several areas in the Jammu region, including Doda, Bhadarwah, and

Kishtwar, which experience heavy snowfall comparable to Gulmarg. Despite their ideal conditions for winter sports and recreation, these areas remain underdeveloped in terms of infrastructure and promotion.

He urged the Lt Governor to take proactive measures in promoting winter tourism in the Jammu region, including organizing competitions, establishing ski resorts, and marketing these destinations.

He also proposed hosting international-level summits in picturesque areas of Jammu Province, such as Patnitop, to boost tourism and leverage its natural beauty. Gupta stressed the importance of showcasing Jammu's rich cultural heritage, natural beauty, and economic potential on an international platform to attract investments, tourists, and collaborations. Gupta also commended the ongoing Artificial Lake project on River Tawi, recognizing its potential in enhancing the aesthetic appeal and recreational opportunities in the region.

Gaurav Gupta expressed his optimism about the bright future of Jammu and Kashmir under the esteemed leadership of the Honorable Lieutenant Governor, Manoj Sinha. He noted with appreciation that the Lieutenant Governor gave a patient hearing to the issues raised by him and assured to diligently address them.

KPS organizes "Haerath Milan" ahead of Mahashivratri



KPS Jammu members with students during "Haerath Milan" function on Saturday.

■ STATE TIMES NEWS
JAMMU: The Kashmiri Pandit Sabha Jammu organized a "Haerath Milan" function on the eve of Mahashivratri festival, falling on the 8th of March 2024.

The event commenced with the traditional lighting of the lamp by the Sabha president, K. K. Khosa alongside members of the Executive Committee.

Dr. Sujata Sathoo, a Senior Member of the Executive Committee, welcomed the audience and conducted the program.

The highlight of the occasion was the display of the "Watak Mandal," consisting of intricate icons necessary for the puja during the Haerath festival, one of the most significant festivals for Kashmiri Pandits.

Kanwal Peshin, President of the Athrot Cultural Foundation, provided detailed insights into the Watak Puja Vidhi and elucidated the significance of each icon.

Following the Watak Mandal display, young children from the community mesmerized the audience with their melodious Bhajans. Daksh Bhat, Lavanya Koul, Pranav Pandita, and Vanshika Kaw delivered captivating performances, earning commendation certificates and rewards for their efforts.

Khosa emphasized the heightened significance of the festival post the forced exodus of Kashmiri Pandits from the valley. He lamented the challenges faced by many families in celebrating the festival together

despite their best efforts.

The event saw the participation of several prominent personalities, including Krishan Kimoo, President of KPA Mumbai; M. K. Jalali, President of Sharika Peeth; A. K. Braroo; T. N. Bhat; Anil Kaul, President of Pashupati Nath Temple; Dr. T. K. Moza; Dr. Ramesh Thusoo; Sharda Nandan Bhat; Ravi Peer, and A. K. Tikoo.

Additionally, all Executive Members, namely Deepak Dhar, G. J. Kampasi, Ashok Kher, Asha Kitchloo, V. K. Mukhi, V. K. Bakshi, Vinod Bhat, Prof. R. K. Ganjoo, Rajinder Tiku, and Satish Khoda, graced the occasion.

S.L. Bagati delivered the vote of thanks, urging the youth to remain connected with Kashmiri culture.

GCW Bhagwati Nagar organises plantation, cleanliness drives



NSS volunteers and faculty of GCW Bhagwati Nagar during plantation drive campaign in the college premises.

■ STATE TIMES NEWS
JAMMU: NSS wing of GCW Bhagwati Nagar organized a plantation drive campaign in the college premises. The Programme was organized under the guidance of Principal Dr. Meeru Abrol. Students planted different

varieties of flowers and species of trees, watered the existing plants in flower pots as well as in the college lawn and cleaned the flower beds.

Speaking on the occasion Principal of the college Dr. Meeru Abrol said that in the present scenario were,

deforestation is taking place at an alarming rate, it brings the responsibility of every responsible citizen to plant more and more plants. This habit, if, inculcated in young age goes along way in developing the habit of a serious awareness towards plantation to save Mother Earth from affects of pollution and Deforestation. The programme was organized by Dr. Pavanjeet Bali and Dr. Kamalpreet Singh. The students were guided to water the saplings every day, so that they grow up into healthy trees and plants. Around 50 saplings were planted and students enthusiastically adopted the plants.

GDC Neeli Nallah organises poster making, slogan writing competitions

■ STATE TIMES NEWS
UDHAMPUR: NCORD Unit and NSS Unit of Government Degree College Neeli Nallah, Udhampur, organized Poster making and slogan writing competition on "Drug Addiction" under the theme "Nasha Mukht Bharat" under the banner of Viksit Bharat.

The programme was organised under the guidance of Principal of the College, Prof. Hans Raj. Principal of the College emphasised that the purpose of the event was to raise awareness among the students and general masses about the serious issues and hazardous impacts caused due to drug abuse. The program commenced with an illuminating keynote by Prof. Hans Raj,



GDC Neeli Nallah students during a competition on Saturday.

Principal of the College. He emphasized the vital role of such awareness programs in educating students about the ill effects of Drugs. The event included poster and slogan writing and the top three positions were secured by Madiha Mir (Semester 2), Roopali Rajput

(Semester 6), Neharika (Semester 6) who claimed the first, second, and third prizes, respectively. Prof. Hans Raj extended his hearty congratulations to the participants for their outstanding performance during the event. He also acknowledged and praised

the dedication and hard work of the college staff in ensuring the event's success. Prof. Rekha served as the convenor of the program, with the organizing committee comprising Dr. Sunil Tanoch, Prof. Shaista Yasmeen (NSS PO), Dr. Zahoor Ahmad Mir, Dr. Akhter Hussain. The event also witnessed the presence of esteemed members, including Mrs. Swati Sharma, Mr. Pradeep Kumar, and Dr. Muntazir Ahmed Bhat, who further enriched the discussions and celebrated the academic achievements of the students.

The event served as a commendable initiative to create awareness among the students regarding the menace of drug addiction.

Two Jr Scale JKAS among three officers transferred

■ STATE TIMES NEWS
JAMMU: The Government on Saturday transferred two Junior Scale JKAS among three officers.

According to GAD order, Surbhi Raina, Jr. Scale JKAS, Under Secretary in the J&K Services Selection Board, has been transferred and posted as Under Secretary in the office of Commissioner for Persons with Disabilities, J&K; Ashiq Rafiq Malik, Jr. Scale JKAS, under orders of posting in the Anqaf Islamia, J&K, has been transferred and his services are placed at the disposal of Information Department, for further posting.

Anil Charak, Tehsildar, awaiting orders of adjustment in the office of Financial Commissioner Revenue, J&K, has been transferred and his services are placed at the disposal of Shri Mata Vaishno Devi Shrine Board, on deputation basis, for further posting.

Suresh gets addl charge of Admin Secy TAD

■ STATE TIMES NEWS
JAMMU: The government on Saturday assigned additional charge to Suresh Kumar Gupta, Principal Secretary, Culture Department.

"Suresh Kumar Gupta, Principal Secretary, Culture Department has been given additional charge of post of Administrative Secretary, Tribal Affairs Department (TAD), in addition to his own duties, till further orders," reads an order issued by Sanjeev Verma, Commissioner Secretary, GAD.

Court rejects pre-arrest bail of then ARTO in DA case

■ STATE TIMES NEWS
JAMMU: Special Judge Anticorruption Kashmir Surinder Singh rejected the pre-arrest bail application of Jamsheed Rasool Chowdhary, the then ARTO Budgam who was booked by the ACB in Disproportionate case.

According to the ACB that a verification vide No.83/2021 was conducted wherein the suspect public servant Jamsheed Rasool Chowdhary, son of Ghulam Rasool Chowdhary, resident of Hassi Bhat Rainawari Srinagar was appointed in MVD as Motor Vehicle Inspector(Tech) on March 27, 2008 vide Govt. Order no.24-TR of 2008 and was

found having acquired 1.5 story residential house at Chinar colony Kulhamma Tangmarg Baramulla (1410) sqft. With underneath land of 2 Kanals 05 Marlas, Land measuring 1.5 kanals at Zakura with residential house built on it as Benami in the name of his father-in-law, Vehicle Tata Nano JK01AL 9707, registered in the name of his daughter Hafsa Jamsheed, 160 gold coins(Ponds), Creta Car bearing Registration No. JK01AD/0821 registered in the name of Saika Mehraj daughter of his driver Mehraj-ud-din Kuchay. The suspect during check period w.e.f January 1, 2009 up to December 31,

2020 against a saving of Rs.387940 raised assets amounting to Rs.18700000/- and thus has amassed disproportionate assets nearby by 364% over and above his income during the check period and against the said back drop, a case FIR No.19/2023 u/s 5(1) (e) r/w 5(2) J&K PC Act Svt 2006 was registered against the said public servant. Special Judge Anticorruption Srinagar Surinder Singh while rejecting the pre-arrest bail application, observed that the allegations as referred above against the petitioner are incriminating in nature and demonstrate petitioner's involvement in acquiring

huge properties against his known source of income which was unbecoming on his part being a public servant thereby raising disproportionate assets illegally and by adopting corrupt practices. The petitioner was given notice of appearance before the IO as mandated under the provisions of Cr.P.C to furnish explanation as to the details of properties owned and possessed by him and by his family members, the petitioner instead responding the notice appearing before the I.O, approached this court, seeking protection from the court against his apprehended arrest.

The anticipatory bail,

being an extra ordinary privilege is granted only in exceptional cases, when the court is convinced on the basis of material on record, that a public servant has falsely been implicated and the allegations of illegal gratification/corruption are leveled with an oblique motive or tainted with malafides. A cursory look to the material collected by investigating agency does not lead to an inference that petitioner has been falsely implicated with the oblique motives instead there is a direct evidence which proves petitioner's culpability in the case. While considering the plea of the petitioner, for grant of anticipatory bail in

light of the above facts and circumstances of the case and material available on the file, it cannot be said that the petitioner is an innocent person and is being implicated in the case without their being any material to prove his complicity.

In the given scenario the plea of the petitioner that he will be harassed and humiliated under the garb of investigation carried on by the investigating agency in absence of any incriminating material available on the file as to the alleged commission of offence, cannot be entertained. The plea of the petitioner seeking bail on medical grounds also cannot be entertained on

the count that petitioner had met with an accident and suffered leg fracture.

The medical record/prescription attached with the application cannot be taken as conclusive proof which otherwise nowhere suggests that petitioner was unable to move out of the bed and in fact is a bed ridden patient, as claimed. Therefore, the plea of the petitioner/accused on this count is also not tenable and is accordingly rejected.

For the aforesaid reasons, Court is of the considered view that the petitioner has failed to carve out a prima facie case to qualify for the concession of bail in anticipation of his arrest.

BJP launches its "Labharthi Sampark Abhiyan"

■ STATE TIMES NEWS
JAMMU: The Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) Jammu & Kashmir has launched its "Labharthi Sampark Abhiyan," a campaign aimed at contacting beneficiaries of various schemes introduced by the Modi government.

This initiative involves senior party leaders reaching out to individuals who have benefited from multiple schemes implemented by Prime Minister Narendra Modi's administration.

Ashok Koul, the General Secretary (organization) of the J&K BJP, kicked off the campaign in polling booth 80, Chak Manga, located in the Samba Assembly Constituency.

He personally engaged with golden beneficiaries, those who have received benefits from more than one of the government schemes.

During the campaign, Koul



BJP J&K Gen Secy (org), Ashok Koul starting Labharthi Sampark Abhiyan campaign in Chak Manga in Samba.

and other leaders interacted with families who have acquired their own homes through the Pradhan Mantri Awas Yojana (PMAY) scheme. Koul emphasized that the primary objective of this endeavor is to ascertain the precise number of beneficiaries at the booth level and ensure the effective implemen-

tation of schemes until every eligible individual in society receives their entitled benefits.

He stated that this exercise would bolster the party's efforts to reach out to the marginalized sections of society.

Accompanying Koul were prominent figures such as Samba district President

Kashmira Singh, senior leader Amar Singh, Parliamentary Vistarak Inderjit, Mandal President Ankush Mahajan, District Vice-Presidents Vinod Singh Binni & Prabhat Singh, Abhiyan Mandal Sanyojak Narinder Singh, among others.

Sham Lal Sharma, J&K BJP Vice-President & Incharge for BJP "Labharthi Sampark Abhiyan," revealed that the campaign was simultaneously launched in 178 Mandals of Jammu and 28 Mandals of Kashmir. He highlighted that BJP activists would engage with beneficiaries to discuss the advantages of various central government schemes and emphasize how these initiatives have directly impacted the lives of those in need.

Reema Padha, Abhiyan Co-convenor, visited the homes of golden beneficiaries in Bakshi Nagar as part of the initiative.

■ STATE TIMES NEWS
JAMMU: Additional District Development Commissioner Sher Singh on Saturday chaired a meeting to finalize preparations for the Mahashivratri festival at the Peer Kho Temple.

During the meeting, officers from various departments presented their plans to ensure the smooth conduct of the festival. Key points of discussion included the Shobha Yatra procession route, removal of road blockades and the replacement of damaged street lights to facilitate the influx of devotees.

A significant emphasis was placed on public safety and convenience, with comprehensive police deployment, efficient traf-

ADDC reviews preparation for Mahashivratri at Peer Kho Temple



ADDC Sher Singh reviewing preparation for Mahashivratri at Peer Kho.

fic management, ample parking facilities and well-planned traffic diversions. To enhance the festive atmosphere, the Floriculture Department will undertake the decoration of the temple premises. Additionally, the concerned officers assured of the provision of drinking water and power supply at

prime spots throughout the festival. In terms of emergency services, fire tender services will be on standby, and a unified control room will be established to coordinate the various aspects of the festival's management. Medical teams, including doctors and pharmacists, will be stationed at strate-

gic points, equipped with ambulances and essential medicines to address any medical needs.

The meeting witnessed the presence of Assistant Commissioner General Manisha, representatives of the Peer Kho Temple body, and officers from the JMC, Jal Shakti, PDD and other departments.